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The Burlingame Buzz

A Look Ahead

The City is looking forward to 2005. Staff is putting plans together for projects and equipment to be purchased in 2005.

Some of the projects include a new water tower, phase 1 of a 2 phased water line replacement program, new cooling tower for the power plant, approximately 16,000 linear feet of streets to be chip sealed, additional water, sewer, gas, and electrical lines in the Fast Subdivision and railroad property development.

Probably the most exciting news may be the starting of construction on a new pool. Construction is scheduled to begin in May or June of 2005 if funding can be secured from several grant sources.

Several new pieces of equipment will also be purchased to ensure the City has a fleet of vehicles and equipment that operates efficiently and effectively. These pieces of equipment include a new



patrol vehicle for the police department, bucket truck for the electric division, utility truck for the public works department.

August Meetings

- January 3—City Council @ 7:00pm
- January 12—Planning Commission @ 7:00pm
- January 17—City Council @ 7:00pm
- January 31—Economic Development Group @ 7:00pm

Administrator's Activities

Staff has been working hard to get a jump start on next year's projects and equipment purchases. We hope to have most of the equipment purchased before March, 2005.

Each project we have scheduled for next year has its own

schedule and will revolve greatly around the weather. Most of the projects will be designed and inspected and in some cases constructed using in-house staff. This will save the City a large amount of money.

The City recently purchased its own survey equipment to allow staff to conduct most activities in-house related to projects. We now have the ability to design most water, sewer, storm sewer, gas and electric projects without having to use outside consultants.

Public Works—Streets and Stormwater



The street department has been busy the past year. After all of the water line improvements on Fremont, it left that street with all of the open cuts around water valves and drive-ways. Several water valves had to be dug up all over town to be replaced, leaving rough areas. We sealed most of the streets on the west side of town this year, due to the beginning water project on the east side of town.

We also sealed four new streets

this year including the rest of East Banks to the Switzler Bridge and Peoria St. from Banks St. to Hall St.

Next year, we will follow up doing street work after the water project on the east side of town. Hopefully, the water project will be done before it is time to begin doing street work. Due to all of the construction, the streets may be rough for a while until we can get them back into shape. We apologize for the inconven-

ience, but please bear with us. We will try to keep things as smooth as possible.

Crews also cleaned out a portion of the south ditch down by the railroad tracks. This area had become overgrown and prevented the stormwater from flowing properly. Crews will begin working on another bad stretch of the south ditch and also cleaning up a portion of the north ditch just south and east of the pool. This will help crews maintain the area.

Public Works—Gas Division

New lines are planned for Fast Subdivision and the railroad property development.

The year of 2004 has been busy for the gas division.

Public works has replaced nearly three and a half miles of new 2" gas main extending from the east city limits to Indian Hills Rd., and then north 1 mile, and back west nearly a half of a mile. This line has been a problem line for several

years with leaks. It was also extended almost a mile, to extend service to more customers.

In 2005, we are planning to extend the gas lines going to Fast Subdivision and the railroad property development near Chase & Delaware.

A new radio read metering

system is also going to be installed on the gas system over the next three years beginning in 2005. The meters currently being specified have the ability to record information as the gas is used to help staff determine if a leak is present when high use is detected during the meter reading process.



Public Works—Water and Sewer Division

2004 saw many changes in the water division. We now purchase 100% of the water from Osage City.

Crews also installed new water lines along Fremont and worked with an engineer to develop plans for Phase 1 of the water project. This will

include the construction of a new water tower by the old nursing home and replacing most of the lines east of Topeka Avenue. Phase 2 is currently being developed to include the replacement of most of the older lines west of Topeka Avenue.

On the sewer side staff is working with engineers on a study to determine the steps necessary to help reduce backups that happen during rain storms events. Watch future newsletter and the web site for updates on this study.

City Clerk's Office

City Hall staff hopes everyone had a happy holiday season and are ready to begin the new year of 2005. As you have read, the City is starting several projects in 2005 that will enhance the utility services.

Since we have several new people to the area, City Hall is open from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Utility payments can be remitted by mail, or by dropping in the depository slot located be-

tween the 2nd and 3rd windows on the west side of City Hall, or by stopping into the office. If you bank at the local bank, you can have the convenience of automatic payment.

Automatic payment allows for the payment of your bill on the date due by debiting your account with a bank transfer. Your bill will be mailed to you marked "PAID" so you will know in advance the amount

to record in your checkbook.

Call City Hall today with your bank account number and a date to start and begin to save each month on gas, an envelope and 37 cent stamp.

If you ever have any questions about your bill or any city services, please call the City Clerk's Office at 785-654-2414 and we will be happy to help you.



City Hall is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm during the week.

Public Works—Electric Division

Over the past year, the electric division has been working hard to begin upgrading the electric distribution system. The power line going east out of town, which extends almost to Scranton has been experiencing voltage loss, along with the line that feeds the entire south west side of town, and south to Dragoon Creek, and in areas west of that. Crews installed

voltage regulators on the east circuit, which will regulate the voltage automatically, preventing the voltage loss. It is planned to install new voltage regulators on the south circuit in 2005, to eliminate the loss on that circuit also.

Crews are also working on upgrading lines in the South Park Subdivision. Crews will

also begin working on extending new lines into a new development around Chase and Delaware and in Fast Addition.

We will begin a three year project to install radio read metering on the electrical distribution system. These meters will allow for quicker and more accurate readings along with more details gathered.

New radio read meters will be installed beginning in 2005. These meters will allow for better information and less manpower to gather the information.

Public Works—Parks & Pools

The big news in the parks & pools area is the possibility of a new pool. The council put together a citizen based committee to develop a plan for the pool. The committee made the following recommendations to the council that were tentatively accepted. They determined that it was time to

demolish the old pool and build a new facility that could meet the needs of the community and surrounding area, instead of trying to rehabilitate the existing pool. The group recommended that a new pool be constructed on the northwest corner of Topeka and Jackson in the existing Jones

Park. When construction is complete the old pool will be removed and the park equipment will be relocated to that area.

Staff is currently working on surveying the site and obtaining grants to pay for the new facility.



City of Burlingame

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Police Department



The officers of the Burlingame Police Department have been working hard this year to make sure the citizens and their property are kept safe. For the most part we saw a reduction in most crimes compared to last year except for Thefts which went up from 6 cases in 2003 to 12 in 2004 with 60% of them being solved. In 2004, the Burlingame Police Department executed 5 narcotics search warrants which is the most ever served by our department. We hope to continue this task with our goal always set on removing all drug users and dealers from our town. However, this is not an easy task for 2 full-time officers. For this reason we need everyone's help. When you see or hear of drug use, call the Osage County Crime Stoppers at 1-877-672-7463, you can remain anonymous.

In 2004, we started some new programs and continued some that we've done in the past. With the help of

MADD we put on a D.U.I. Awareness course at Rodeo Days. We had participants, of any age, put on "Drunk Goggles" which simulate impairment and pedal a car through a course without hitting any cones. If you would like to support MADD, please send a donation to 3601 SW 29th, Suite 211, Topeka, KS 66614.

Another new program we stated this year is the Teddy Bear's on Patrol program. With the assistance of the Burlingame Post Office and several generous citizens in the community, we were able to stock both patrol cars with teddy bears to hand out to kids who have been in vehicle accidents or domestic violence incidents. These teddy bears have proven to be a valuable asset for us as they help the kids open up to us.

Once again Santa has asked us to help him deliver toys to area kids. This is

the 7th year in a row we have helped the big guy out with delivering his cargo. We usually deliver to an average of 30 kids in the area. Another program during the holiday season is to distribute canned goods to area families. This is the second year we have assisted with this program. With the help of our hard working kids, our school brought in around 2,300 canned items. WAY TO GO BEARCATS!!!

A couple of months ago I was contacted by the Osage City Police Chief. He is trying to get area law enforcement officers to help sponsor the Special Olympics in Osage County in 2005. While still in its infancy, we are working on this and I ask residents to keep an eye out for advertising for this great event. I am very excited about this and I know the citizens of Burlingame will show their support as well.